



CCOM GRANTED PARTY STATUS SOUTH FORK WIND FARM

In an effort to assert the importance of advancing the South Fork Wind Farm project and to ensure it is done so in the most environmentally sustainable manner, CCOM has sought and obtained "party status" in the New York Public Service Commission (PSC) Article VII process.

Article VII, "Siting of Major Utility Transmission Facilities," is the section of the New York State Public Service Law that requires a full review of the need for and environmental impact of the siting, design, construction, and operation of major transmission facilities in New York State.

Party status enables CCOM to have an active voice and to participate in the evaluation of the environmental compatibility of the project. CCOM has stood firm on the need to minimize known, unknown, or even unforeseen environmental impacts, including those related to the fishing industry, cable route alternatives, and environmentally sensitive and preserved lands associated with the installation, operation and maintenance of offshore wind technologies and infrastructure.

A WIN FOR LOCAL WATER QUALITY CCOM AWARDED THREE GRANTS

Suffolk County Grant: Septic Outreach \$100,000 Award

Concerned Citizens of Montauk and Citizens Campaign for the Environment have been awarded a second year of funding through Suffolk County's Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program, which is administered by the Suffolk County



Department of Economic Development and Planning. Funding from Suffolk County will allow partnering organizations to expand current efforts to implement a regional septic awareness outreach program, raising public and governmental awareness about the degradation of the County's ground and surface waters, the need for innovative alternative septic systems, and the various local funding opportunities available for upgrading and installing new, innovative systems, which have additional nitrogen removal capabilities.

**Long Island Community Foundation
\$25,000 Award**

For an unprecedented third year in a row, CCOM has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Long Island Community Foundation (LICF) to help fund our work to improve Montauk's water quality. This grant will allow us to not only remain focused on Montauk by adding a boating community education component in Lake Montauk, but to also expand our homeowner education on upgrading septic systems and reducing stormwater runoff into the other areas of East Hampton for even greater regional benefit.

**Town of East Hampton Grant: Floating Wetland in Ft. Pond
\$25,211 Award**

The East Hampton Town Board awarded CCOM a \$25,211 grant from the Community Preservation Fund Water Quality Improvement Program for the installation of floating wetlands in Fort Pond, Montauk. As a temporary seasonal installation of native vegetation designed to remove nitrogen and phosphorus, it is hoped that these floating wetlands will mitigate some of the nutrient pollution in the Pond, thus reducing the extent and severity of the harmful algal blooms which have plagued the Pond for the last few years. This mitigation pilot project will work in tandem with all our other efforts aimed at reducing pollutant loadings in Fort Pond.

**EXPANDED WATER TESTING PROGRAM
THIRTY-FOUR SITES MONITORED YEAR ROUND**

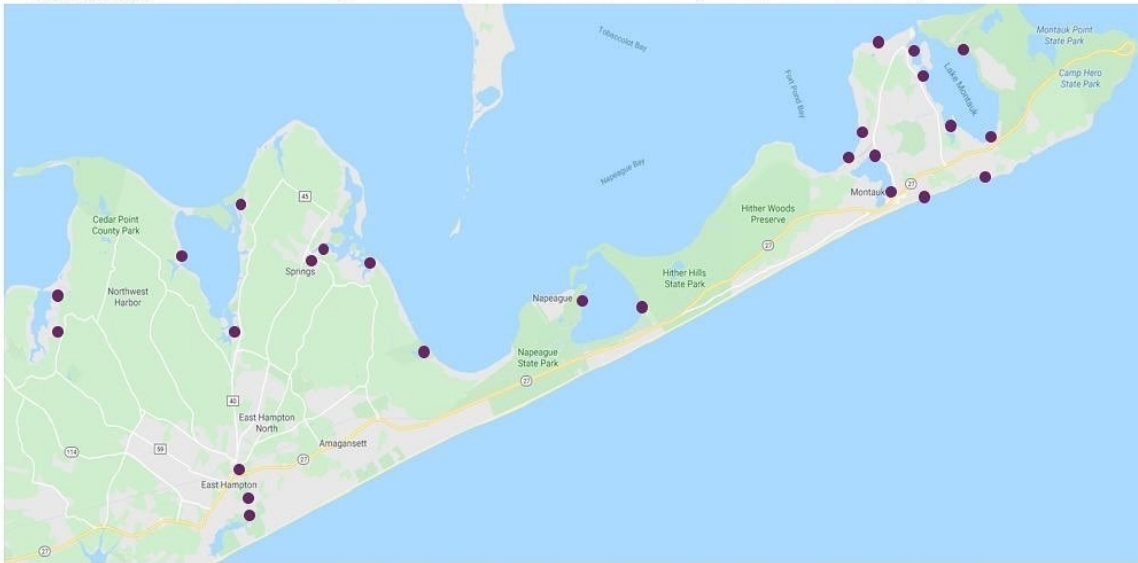
Last spring CCOM expanded our water testing program into Accabonac Harbor and Northwest Creek, further bolstering our already robust townwide program.

In our office laboratory, Environmental Advocate Kate **processes an average of 800 water samples annually!** Each water test costs us approximately \$10, and over time, that really adds up! If you believe in the work we are doing in your community and want to see this programming continue, please show your support by sponsoring a water test with a [small monthly donation](#).

To see a detailed list of all the test sites and test results, [visit our website's press release page](#).



Water Quality Testing Locations – *in your community!*



CCOM proudly tests and monitors waterbodies throughout the Town covering East Hampton, Springs and Amagansett, as well as Montauk

CRITICAL CHANGES APPROVED EAST HAMPTON TOWN'S SEPTIC UPGRADE PROGRAM

With input from CCOM on recommendations to improve the CPF-funded septic upgrade program, the East Hampton Town Board has recently approved some much needed changes to help increase participation - and increased participation in the program means fewer pollutants entering our waters. Here are the detailed changes:

- Shift the program from a rebate to a direct payment to the system vendors/installers, which will alleviate the tax burden on the property owner, as well as minimize upfront costs
- Increase the maximum rebate amount to further incentivize upgrading to a new system
- Remove the maximum income eligibility requirement to help target the waterfront homes that may have a greater impact on water quality
- Implement a septic registry in place of a building permit to simplify and expedite the installation process for retrofits and upgrades (new construction and significant expansions will still need building permits)
- Provide an additional allowance at the end of the calendar year to offer additional financial relief to property owners who may have experienced unusually high installation costs.

Since 2018, CCOM has been hosting free septic Q&A meetings for the public to help East Hampton residents navigate the upgrade process. We will continue to do so throughout 2020. In the meantime, you are invited to contact the EH Town Natural Resources Department to get questions answered or to start your upgrade process: NaturalResources@EHamptonNY.gov or **631-324-0496**